

College Participation by Ethnicity

www.cpec.ca.gov • April 2009

by Mallory Angeli

College-going varies greatly between ethnic groups in California. College-going rates for Black and Latino high school graduates tend to be low, with only 4.5% of Latino female high school graduates entering the University of California in 2007 compared to 28.4% of Asian females. College-going rates for males are lower in all racial and ethnic groups. Only 3.2% of Latino male high school graduates entered UC in 2007.

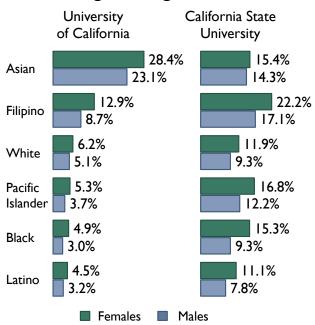
California State University has less of an ethnicity gap but more of a gender gap. The CSU college-going rate for Black males is less than two-thirds of the rate for Black females.

Asian Ethnic Groups

College-going rates for Asians are higher than other ethnic groups, but these figures hide variation within the Asian population. Recent

— continued, back page

College-Going Rates, 2007

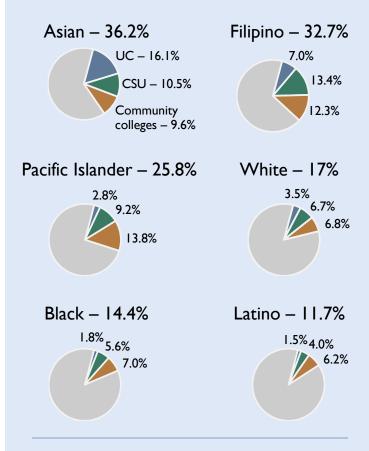


Percent of California public high school graduates entering UC and CSU.

Enrollments as a Percentage of the College-Age Population

Representation of the population in public higher education is uneven. Over 36% of Asians aged 18 to 24 are enrolled in one of California's three public higher education systems, but the corresponding figure for Latinos is 11.7%.

Over 16% of Asians aged 18–24 are enrolled at UC, compared to 1.8% of college-age Blacks and 1.5% of college-age Latinos.



Students aged 18 to 24 taking a half-time load or more as a percentage of the total number of people aged 18 to 24 in that ethnic group.

Does not include students attending independent colleges and universities or California students attending out-of state colleges and universities. immigrants from Southeast Asia are often in low-income, non-English-speaking households and tend to do poorly in many measures related to college preparation. For example, 24% of Cambodians scored below basic in the statewide 11th grade English/ Language Arts test in 2008. This is three times the figure for Chinese or Korean students.

Asian Students Entering UC and CSU

	2006	2007
University of Ca	lifornia	
Chinese	5,230	4,980
Vietnamese	1,750	1,640
Other Asian	940	940
Korean	1,470	1,430
Japanese	610	560
Asian Indian	920	940
Total Asians	10,920	10,490
California State	University	
Chinese	1,820	1,890
Vietnamese	1,190	1,240
Other Asian	850	810
Korean	560	630
Japanese	470	530
Asian Indian	380	510
Cambodian	250	230
Other SE Asian	120	130
Thai	90	90
Laotian	90	100
Total Asians	5,820	6,160

Entering freshmen aged 19 and younger.

At UC, Southeast Asians are included in the Other Asian category.

For the community colleges, reporting varies from college to college so it is not possible to give systemwide totals of enrollments for Asian ethnic groups.

Enrollments of Southeast Asians are low in proportion to their population. CSU's data shows that only about 300 Laotian and Cambodian freshmen entered CSU in 2007. It is not possible to give college-going rates for Southeast Asians as a percentage of high school graduates, because the California Department of Education's graduation data is not broken down by the Asian ethnic groups.

11th Graders Scoring Below Basic

	English	Math
Latino	24%	36%
Cambodian	24	30
Black	23	36
Laotian	23	33
Pacific Islander	22	30
Filipino	13	26
White	13	18
Asian	12	10
Vietnamese	11	13
Chinese	8	6
Korean	8	7

2008 scores in English/Language Arts and Summative High School Mathematics on the California Standards Test. Data from the California Department of Education.

All enrollment data is from CPEC's student information system. More data on college-going and enrollments is available on CPEC's website

www.cpec.ca.gov